GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:281
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2015
GDP Growth Rate
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Thomas Prof. Kuruppassery Varkey

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP);
(b) whether there is a need to boost GDP growth in order to achieve optimum employment and poverty eradication and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the agriculture sector is lagging behind in growth, if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year; and
(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost growth rate of various sectors of the economy particularly agriculture sector in order to achieve the higher growth rate?

Answer

FINANCE MINISTER
(SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 281
BY SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR AND PROF. K.V. THOMAS
DUE FOR ANSWER ON DECEMBER 18, 2015
*****

(a) As per the estimates of national income released by Central Statistics Office, the growth rate in GDP at constant market prices stood at 7.2 per cent during first half of 2015-16. This growth rate was 5.1 per cent, 6.9 per cent, and 7.3 per cent respectively in 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15.
(b): Buoyant economic growth is needed to create gainful employment opportunities and reduce the incidence of poverty. The growth pattern in the past two decades suggests that the reduction in poverty generally accelerated when growth strengthened. The latest year for which official poverty estimates are available is 2011-12 and hence any further evidence cannot be elicited from current trends. The results of the Labour Bureau's Quarterly Quick Employment surveys in the select labour-intensive and export-oriented sectors indicate that as economic growth improved in the last year, employment in the aforesaid sectors also picked up.
(c) The growth rate of gross value added at constant (2011-12) basic prices of agriculture, forestry and fishing was 0.2 per cent in 2014-15, as compared to the growth of 3.7 per cent and 1.2 per cent in 2013-14 and 2012-13 respectively. During the first half of 2015-16, the growth rate of the sector works out to be 2.0 per cent. The growth in agriculture and allied sectors has been, thus, lower than overall growth during the reference period.
(d) Government of India has taken various initiatives to accelerate the growth of the economy which, inter alia, include fillip to manufacturing and different infrastructure sectors through a variety of schemes and through higher public investment; reforms and liberalization of foreign direct investment in selected sectors; etc. Fiscal reforms with emphasis on consolidation, expenditure reforms and rationalization of tax structure, could also contribute to higher growth. Boost to the agricultural sector is one of the prime focus areas of the Government. The Government is implementing a number of schemes which, among others, include: measures to expand area under irrigation; encouraging organic farming and efficient use of water; improving soil fertility; promoting horticulture and oilseeds; improving agricultural extension & technology; strengthening crop insurance; reforming agricultural marketing; ensuring remunerative prices; etc.